

**THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
CLEVELAND 6. OHIO**

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FOR RELEASE at will
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Persian horses of the eighth century B.C. sometime wore ornamental cheek plaques of cast bronze. One is now on display at The Cleveland Museum of Art. This particular piece of bridle equipment is wrought into the shape of a horned god standing upon two prostrate rabbits and grasping a pair of winged, lion-like monsters by their paws. It expresses a subject derived from the Mesopotamian hero-protector slaying the wild beast. The plaque belongs to a group of bronzes found in burial places in Luristan province, none of which have been scientifically excavated. Precise dates, or evidence of the culture actually responsible for them, have not yet been established. This piece is from the collection of Mrs. Christian R. Holmes and was shown in the exhibition of Persian Art at Burlington House, London and later in a similar exhibition in New York.

61.32 Cast bronze incense burner, Persia, Parthian period, 1st century A.D.

A cheetah holding a round dish. Around the animal's neck the collar usual in representations of cheetahs, and little tufts on shoulders and side of body evidently represent wings; the spots of the cheetah represented by little depressions in the surface. Said to have been found at Burudjird, Luristan. Two similar incense burners were excavated in Parthian strata of 1st century B.C. at Taxila.

This object is particularly important because of the great rarity of early Parthian decorative arts, particularly, metalwork. Aside from the incense burners from Taxila and a few fragments of jewelry also from Taxila, the only other Parthian metalwork of any importance is a group of bronzes now in the Teheran Museum, which are from a site near that from which the Museum's incense burner comes.

Purchase from the J. H. Wade Fund. 4 1/2" by 12". (Negative number 31206) ✓